

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended): A polarizer comprising a film having a structure having a minute domain dispersed in a matrix formed of a translucent thermoplastic resin including an absorption dichroic dye, wherein

a transmittance to a linearly polarized light in a transmission direction is 80% or more,

a haze value is 10% or less, ~~and~~

a haze value to a linearly polarized light in an absorption direction is 50% or more,

the translucent thermoplastic resin is a polyvinyl alcohol, and

the minute domain is formed of an oriented birefringent material that shows liquid crystalline at least in orientation processing step, wherein the birefringent material forming the minute domain is a liquid crystalline thermoplastic resin showing up a state of a nematic phase or a smectic phase in a temperature region lower than a glass transition temperature of the translucent thermoplastic resin.

2. Cancelled.

3. Cancelled.

4. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 1 ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the minute domain has 0.02 or more of birefringence.

5. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim ~~1~~ ~~2~~ ~~or 3~~, wherein in a refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the translucent thermoplastic resin in each optical axis direction,

a refractive index difference (Δn^1) in direction of axis showing a maximum is 0.03 or more, and

a refractive index difference (Δn^2) between the Δn^1 direction and a direction of axes of two directions perpendicular to the Δn^1 direction is 50% or less of the Δn^1 .

6. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a ratio of a backscattering strength to an incident light strength is 30% or less.

7. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein an absorption axis of the absorption dichroic dye is oriented in the Δn^1 direction.

8. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the film is manufactured by stretching.

9. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the minute domain has a length of 0.05 to 500 μm in the Δn^2 direction.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended): [[The]] A polarizer according to claim 3 comprising a film having a structure having a minute domain dispersed in a matrix formed of a translucent thermoplastic resin including an absorption dichroic dye, wherein

a transmittance to a linearly polarized light in a transmission direction is 80% or more,

a haze value is 10% or less,

a haze value to a linearly polarized light in an absorption direction is 50% or more,
the translucent thermoplastic resin is a polyvinyl alcohol, and
the minute domain is formed of an oriented birefringent material that shows liquid
crystalline at least in orientation processing step, wherein the birefringent material forming the
minute domain is a product obtained by polymerization after aligning a liquid crystalline
monomer showing up a state of a nematic phase or a smectic phase in a temperature region lower
than the glass transition temperature of the translucent thermoplastic resin.

12. (Currently amended): The polarizer according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the
absorption dichroic dye is a dye having at least one absorption band with a dichroic ratio of 3 or
more in the visible light wavelength region.

13. (Currently amended): A polarizing plate comprising a transparent protective
layer formed at least on one side of the polarizer according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2.

14. (Currently amended): An optical film comprising the polarizer according to
claim 1 ~~or~~ 2.

15. (Currently amended): An image display comprising the polarizer according to
claim 1 ~~or~~ 2.

16. (Previously presented): An optical film comprising the polarizing plate
according to claim 13.

17. (Previously presented): An image display comprising the polarizing plate
according to claim 13.

18. (Previously presented): An image display comprising the optical film according to claim 14.

19. (New): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the polarizer (film) is from $1\mu\text{m}$ to 3mm.

20. (New): The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein a percentage of the absorption dichroic dye in the polarizer is controlled to be from 0.01 to 100 parts by weight to the translucent thermoplastic resin 100 parts by weight.

21. (New): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein the minute domain has 0.02 or more of birefringence.

22. (New): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein in a refractive index difference between the birefringent material forming the minute domain and the translucent thermoplastic resin in each optical axis direction,

a refractive index difference (Δn^1) in direction of axis showing a maximum is 0.03 or more, and

a refractive index difference (Δn^2) between the Δn^1 direction and a direction of axes of two directions perpendicular to the Δn^1 direction is 50% or less of the Δn^1 .

23 (New): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein a ratio of a backscattering strength to an incident light strength is 30% or less.

24. (New): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein an absorption axis of the absorption dichroic dye is oriented in the Δn^1 direction.

25. (New): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein the film is manufactured by stretching.

26. (New): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein the minute domain has a length of 0.05 to 500 μm in the Δn^2 direction.

27. (New): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein the absorption dichroic dye is a dye having at least one absorption band with a dichroic ratio of 3 or more in the visible light wavelength region.

28. (New): A polarizing plate comprising a transparent protective layer formed at least on one side of the polarizer according to claim 1.

29. (New): An optical film comprising the polarizer according to claim 11.

30. (New): An image display comprising the polarizer according to claim 11.

31. (New): An optical film comprising the polarizing plate according to claim 28.

32. (New): An image display comprising the polarizing plate according to claim 28.

33. (New): An image display comprising the optical film according to claim 29.

34. (New): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein a thickness of the polarizer (film) is from 1 μm to 3mm.

35. (New): The polarizer according to claim 11, wherein a percentage of the absorption dichroic dye in the polarizer is controlled to be from 0.01 to 100 parts by weight to the translucent thermoplastic resin 100 parts by weight.